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SENATE MEMORIAL 9

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Richard M. Romero

A MEMORIAL

PROCLAIMING JANUARY 28, 2003 AS "NEW MEXICO NATIONAL GUARD DAY"  
IN THE LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, the New Mexico national guard has its historical antecedents in, and traces its lineage from, the citizen-soldier ethos of the earliest Native American inhabitants and, later, the Spanish colonial militia under Don Juan de Onate, the territorial militia and the New Mexico volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico national guard has fulfilled its constitutional and statutory duty of military service to the nation in the past and in the present, including participation in the Spanish American War with the "rough riders" and the punitive raids into Mexico in response to armed attack by bandits at Columbus, New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the national guard has courageously responded

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1 when called to arms, including the deployment of New Mexico's  
2 first regiment of infantry and battery of field artillery to  
3 Belgium and France during World War I; the deployment of army  
4 national guard units during World War II to the Philippine  
5 Islands, where they earned lasting fame and were affectionately  
6 known as the "battling bastards of Bataan"; and the deployment  
7 of the eight hundred fourth tank destroyer battalion in the  
8 Italian theater campaign; and

9 WHEREAS, the New Mexico air national guard served in Korea  
10 and in Vietnam, including aerial combat in "MIG Alley", and  
11 were known to friend and foe alike as the "TACOS"; and

12 WHEREAS, New Mexico army and air national guard units were  
13 deployed to the Persian Gulf during "operation desert shield"  
14 and "operation desert storm", and the New Mexico air national  
15 guard one hundred fiftieth fighter wing was deployed to the  
16 skies over Turkey and Iraq in "operation northern watch"; and

17 WHEREAS, the New Mexico air national guard's one hundred  
18 fiftieth fighter wing served in "operation noble eagle",  
19 guarding the skies over our homeland; the army national guard's  
20 sixty-fourth CST WMD unit was deployed to Salt Lake City, Utah,  
21 to support the world olympics; the army national guard's seven  
22 hundred seventeenth medical company served in Kosovo in 2001  
23 and 2002; and the one hundred fiftieth security force squadron  
24 served in various overseas and continental United States  
25 locations in support of "operation enduring freedom" and in

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1 "operation noble eagle" in response to the September 11, 2001  
2 attacks on the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, the New Mexico national guard has also fulfilled  
4 its obligations to readiness and response to state emergencies  
5 and call-ups, including an immediate, dedicated and  
6 professional reaction to the Cerro Grande and Scott Able fires  
7 in 2000; and

8 WHEREAS, the New Mexico national guard promptly responded  
9 to the governor's call-up pursuant to the president's request  
10 that national guard troops be placed at airports throughout the  
11 country; and

12 WHEREAS, the New Mexico national guard continues to  
13 support the people of New Mexico with search and rescue  
14 missions; and

15 WHEREAS, the New Mexico national guard continues to  
16 strengthen and defend New Mexico's communities by standing  
17 watch against terrorism and weapons of mass destruction; by  
18 supporting law enforcement agencies, schools and community-  
19 based organizations as they strive against the threat of  
20 illicit drug trafficking and use; and by assisting the United  
21 States border patrol along our international border with Mexico  
22 by participating in the innovative readiness training program;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, the national guard fosters future generations by  
25 helping high school dropouts turn their lives around through

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1 the youth challenge program; by establishing distance learning  
2 centers throughout the state; and by endowing our youth with an  
3 ethic of public service and empowering them for future success  
4 through leadership training, technical education and hands-on  
5 experience; and

6 WHEREAS, the New Mexico national guard has bridged eras,  
7 from the days of the state's earliest settlement to the twenty-  
8 first century, and has adapted to their changes, from the  
9 relative simplicity of the mounted horse cavalry era to the  
10 complexity of the space age, through the tradition of selfless  
11 service and sacrifice of the citizen soldier, ready to answer  
12 the call of duty;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
14 OF NEW MEXICO that, in recognition of the constant dedication  
15 and service of the New Mexico national guard to the state of  
16 New Mexico, January 28, 2003 be designated as "New Mexico  
17 National Guard Day" at the legislature; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
19 transmitted to the adjutant general of the department of  
20 military affairs.

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